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FLOOR DEBATE

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October of '98 to our present fund balance of something over \$30 million. Now we are going to start using that money as these investigations become completed, and we decide which funds or which sites need cleanup more badly than others or...or that won't result in cleaning themselves up, and so you'll start to see the fund decline some. Even if we don't take the \$6 million, in about two years we'll start to see a decline that will continue in the foreseeable future as we use the money for cleanup. Now at some point, and I don't know what that point is, we'll get out here to where we'll be below \$5 million or down to \$5 million, and we'll have to make a decision, either slow down the cleanups or increase the tax again. So I think that's...it...it...that we'll arrive at that point whether we take this \$6 million or whether we don't. We'll arrive at that point more quickly if we take the \$6 million, so it's, you know, it's a decision. I...I'm not...I don't feel good about taking this \$6 million at all because I know we'll reach a point where we'll have to replace it or...or...or slow down the cleanups significantly. But I am trying to...I'm trying to do what the Appropriations Committee is suggesting in a rational way to get us by this hurdle or at least help with the hurdle, and so I...I still will support what the Appropriations Committee is suggesting. But I have handed this out so that...just to try to help all of us have...have as much information as we can in making this decision. So that's the way I feel about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Bromm, I remember when we tried to set this cleanup of petroleum up. It was a pretty hard-fought battle. I mean, we were...we were identifying more sites than...than what we ever expected and...and the fund was set up to...to adequately serve these clean-up sites. And...and I'm sure that not every site has been identified. There will be new ones come along that...that will be identified and it's...I'm sure that a lot of the sites, the old sites, over time have been cleaning themselves up. Because the way the...the water flows under...underground, it's like a underground river, it moves on and it...they kind of biodegrade themselves, and by the time,